

We claim:

1. A system for controlling access to an application program in a wireless device connected to an ad-hoc communications network, comprising:

a memory device; and

5 a processor disposed in communication with the memory device, the processor configured to:

send an inquiry message to the ad-hoc communications network;

receive a response to the inquiry message from a nearby wireless device;

choose a selected application from a list of application programs; and

10 examine at least one control parameter associated with the selected application.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one control parameter dictates a behavior of the selected application.

15 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the behavior includes allowing communication with the selected application, refusing communication with the selected application, downloading the selected application, or distributing the selected application.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein when a matching application is resident on the nearby
20 wireless device, the processor is further configured to:

send a connection request to the nearby wireless device;

receive an accept connections message from the nearby wireless device;

launch the selected application; and

send a service request to connect the selected application and the matching application.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein when a user closes the selected application, the processor is

5 further configured to:

erase the selected application.

6. The system of claim 2, wherein to choose the selected application, the processor is further configured to:

10 retrieve an entry from an application directory stored in a middleware layer portion of the memory device, the entry associating the selected application and the nearby device and including said at least one control parameter.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the choice of the selected application is based on a priority

15 assigned to the entry.

8. A method for controlling access to an application program in a wireless device connected to an ad-hoc communications network, comprising:

sending an inquiry message to the ad-hoc communications network;

20 receiving a response to the inquiry message from a nearby wireless device;

choosing a selected application from a list of application programs; and

examining at least one control parameter associated with the selected application.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said at least one control parameter dictates a behavior of the selected application.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the behavior includes allowing communication with the selected application, refusing communication with the selected application, downloading the selected application, or distributing the selected application.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein when a matching application is resident on the nearby

wireless device, the method further comprises:

sending a connection request to the nearby wireless device;

receiving an accept connections message from the nearby wireless device;

launching the selected application; and

sending a service request to connect the selected application and the matching application.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein when a user closes the selected application, the method further comprises:

erasing the selected application.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the choosing of the selected application further comprises: retrieving an entry from an application directory stored in a middleware layer portion of the memory device, the entry associating the selected application and the nearby device

and including said at least one control parameter.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the choice of the selected application is based on a priority assigned to the entry.

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15. A computer program product for controlling access to an application program in a wireless device connected to an ad-hoc communications network, comprising:

a computer readable medium storing:

program code for sending an inquiry message to the ad-hoc communications

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network;

program code for receiving a response to the inquiry message from a nearby wireless device;

program code for choosing a selected application from a list of application programs; and

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program code for examining at least one control parameter associated with the selected application.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, the computer readable medium further storing:

program code for sending a connection request to the nearby wireless device when a

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matching application is resident on the nearby wireless device;

program code for receiving an accept connections message from the nearby wireless device when a matching application is resident on the nearby wireless device;

program code for launching the selected application when a matching application is resident
on the nearby wireless device; and
program code for sending a service request to connect the selected application and the
matching application when a matching application is resident on the nearby wireless
5 device.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, the computer readable medium further storing:
program code for erasing the selected application when a user closes the selected
application.

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18. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the program code for choosing of the
selected application further comprises:

program code for retrieving an entry from an application directory stored in a middleware
layer portion of the memory device, the entry associating the selected application
15 and the nearby device and including said at least one control parameter.

19. A system for controlling access to an application program in a wireless device connected to
an ad-hoc communications network, comprising:

a memory device; and

20 a processor disposed in communication with the memory device, the processor configured
to:
receive an inquiry message;

send a response to the inquiry message;
receive a connection request;
send an accept connections message;
receive a service request to connect to an application; and
5 examine at least one control parameter associated with a matching application
program for the application.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said at least one control parameter dictates a behavior of
the matching application.

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21. The system of claim 20, wherein the behavior includes allowing communication with the
selected application, refusing communication with the selected application, downloading the
selected application, or distributing the selected application.

15 22. The system of claim 20, wherein the processor is further configured to:
launch the matching application; and
receive a service request to connect the selected application and the matching application.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein when a user closes the matching application, the processor
20 is further configured to:
erase the selected application.

24. A method for controlling access to an application program in a wireless device connected to an ad-hoc communications network, comprising:

receiving an inquiry message;

sending a response to the inquiry message;

5 receiving a connection request;

sending an accept connections message;

receiving a service request to connect to an application; and

examining at least one control parameter associated with a matching application program for the application.

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25. The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one control parameter dictates a behavior of the matching application.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the behavior includes allowing communication with the selected application, refusing communication with the selected application, downloading the selected application, or distributing the selected application.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising:
launching the matching application; and
20 receiving a service request to connect the selected application and the matching application.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein when a user closes the matching application, the method

further comprises:

erasing the selected application.

29. A computer program product for controlling access to an application program in a wireless

5 device connected to an ad-hoc communications network, comprising:

a computer readable medium storing:

program code for receiving an inquiry message;

program code for sending a response to the inquiry message;

program code for receiving a connection request;

10 program code for sending an accept connections message;

program code for receiving a service request to connect to an application; and

program code for examining at least one control parameter associated with a

matching application program for the application.

15 30. The computer program product of claim 29, the computer readable medium further storing:

program code for launching the matching application; and

program code for receiving a service request to connect the selected application and the

matching application.

20 31. The computer program product of claim 30, the computer readable medium further storing:

program code for erasing the selected application when a user closes the matching

application.

32. A system for controlling access to a preferred application program in a wireless device, wherein an ad-hoc communications network connects at least one device and supports at least one application program, said at least one device including the wireless device, and said at least one
5 application program including the preferred application program, comprising:

a memory device; and

a processor disposed in communication with the memory device, the processor configured
to:

maintain a local information database in each said at least one device, the local

10 information database associating at least one prioritized application program
with at least one control parameter, said at least one application program
including said at least one prioritized application program, and said at least
one prioritized application program including the preferred application
program;

15 conduct an inquiry of the ad-hoc communications network to discover at least one
nearby device in said at least one device, the inquiry including an indication
that said at least one nearby device may include a middleware layer;

access the local information database to identify the preferred application program in
said at least one prioritized application program; and

20 access the local information database to examine said at least one control parameter
associated with the preferred application program.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein said at least one control parameter associated with the preferred application program dictates a behavior of a peer device in said at least one nearby device toward the preferred application program.

5 34. The system of claim 33, wherein the behavior includes allowing communication with the preferred application program.

35. The system of claim 32, wherein the local information database further includes preference information relating to said at least one application program.

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36. The system of claim 35, wherein the preference information includes a preference of a peer device in said at least one nearby device for one of said at least one application program.

37. The system of claim 32, wherein a user of the wireless device selects said at least one prioritized application program and defines said at least one control parameter associated with each
15 said at least one prioritized application program.

38. The system of claim 32, wherein a monitor program resident in the wireless device monitors actions performed by a user of the wireless device to select said at least one prioritized application
20 program and define said at least one control parameter associated with each said at least one prioritized application program.

39. A method for controlling access to a preferred application program in a wireless device, wherein an ad-hoc communications network connects at least one device and supports at least one application program, said at least one device including the wireless device, and said at least one application program including the preferred application program, comprising:

- 5 maintaining a local information database in each said at least one device, the local
 information database associating at least one prioritized application program with at
 least one control parameter, said at least one application program including said at
 least one prioritized application program, and said at least one prioritized application
 program including the preferred application program;
- 10 conducting an inquiry of the ad-hoc communications network to discover at least one nearby
 device in said at least one device, the inquiry including an indication that said at least
 one nearby device may include a middleware layer;
- accessing the local information database to identify the preferred application program in said
 at least one prioritized application program; and
- 15 accessing the local information database to examine said at least one control parameter
 associated with the preferred application program.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said at least one control parameter associated with the preferred application program dictates a behavior of a peer device in said at least one nearby device
20 toward the preferred application program.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the behavior includes allowing communication with the

preferred application program.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein the local information database further includes preference information relating to said at least one application program.

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43. The method of claim 42, wherein the preference information includes a preference of a peer device in said at least one nearby device for one of said at least one application program.

44. The method of claim 39, wherein a user of the wireless device selects said at least one prioritized application program and defines said at least one control parameter associated with each
10 said at least one prioritized application program.

45. The method of claim 39, wherein a monitor program resident in the wireless device monitors actions performed by a user of the wireless device to select said at least one prioritized
15 application program and define said at least one control parameter associated with each said at least one prioritized application program.

46. A computer program product for controlling access to a preferred application program in a wireless device, wherein an ad-hoc communications network connects at least one device and
20 supports at least one application program, said at least one device including the wireless device, and said at least one application program including the preferred application program, comprising:
a computer readable medium storing:

program code for maintaining a local information database in each said at least one device, the local information database associating at least one prioritized application program with at least one control parameter, said at least one application program including said at least one prioritized application program, and said at least one prioritized application program including the preferred application program;

program code for conducting an inquiry of the ad-hoc communications network to discover at least one nearby device in said at least one device, the inquiry including an indication that said at least one nearby device may include a middleware layer;

program code for accessing the local information database to identify the preferred application program in said at least one prioritized application program; and program code for accessing the local information database to examine said at least one control parameter associated with the preferred application program.

47. A system for controlling access to a preferred application program in a wireless device, wherein an ad-hoc communications network connects at least one device and supports at least one application program, said at least one device including the wireless device, and said at least one application program including the preferred application program, comprising:

means for maintaining a local information database in each said at least one device, the local information database associating at least one prioritized application program with at least one control parameter, said at least one application program including said at

least one prioritized application program, and said at least one prioritized application
program including the preferred application program;
means for conducting an inquiry of the ad-hoc communications network to discover at least
one nearby device in said at least one device, the inquiry including an indication that
5 said at least one nearby device may include a middleware layer;
means for accessing the local information database to identify the preferred application
program in said at least one prioritized application program; and
means for accessing the local information database to examine said at least one control
parameter associated with the preferred application program.